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**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Resources**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 21, 2004

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The Honorable Wally Herger  
2268 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Herger:

Thank you for your January 8<sup>th</sup> letter to request a field hearing regarding the Sierra Nevada Framework Plan Amendment (SNFPA). I commend you for your leadership on this issue and share your concern with the Plan and the future of federal forested land in Northern California.

As you know, I too was a co-signer of the letter to the Forest Service requesting the SNFPA Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) be based on sound science and flexible, practical management practices. It is only through common sense methods that forest managers on the ground will be able to address the serious forest health problems threatening the 11 national forests in the Sierra Nevada's.

With the recent signing of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (P.L. 108-148), forest managers now have more tools available to them. Currently it's estimated that 190 million acres of public land is just a lighting strike away from catastrophic wildfire—the Sierra region included. It is my hope the HFRA will be fully implemented, enabling America's forests to return to a healthy and prosperous state. After the devastating fires in southern California, we have once again been reminded of why HFRA must be put into practice as soon as possible.

With that said, the Resources Committee will hold a field hearing on the SNFPA on February 28, 2004. Again, I'd like to reiterate my thanks to you both for your hard work and dedication to this issue. Together, we can work to ensure our national forests will be around for future generations to enjoy.

Sincerely,

RICHARD W. POMBO  
Chairman